

the requirements for applicants during the open season.

(c) In situations where new eligibility groups are added to the Program, and OPM determines that it is appropriate to have an open season, OPM will provide notice and set the requirements for a special open season limited to those eligible individuals.

[68 FR 5534, Feb. 4, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 30607, May 27, 2005]

§ 875.403 May I apply for coverage outside of an open season?

If you are eligible for coverage, you may submit an application at any time outside of an open season. You will be subject to full underwriting requirements. The only exceptions to the full underwriting requirements outside of an open season are described in § 875.206 and § 875.405.

[68 FR 5534, Feb. 4, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 30607, May 27, 2005]

§ 875.404 What is the effective date of coverage?

(a) The effective dates of coverage under open season enrollments will be announced in a FEDERAL REGISTER Notice that announces open season dates.

(b)(1) If you enroll at any time outside of an open season, your coverage effective date is the 1st day of the month after the date your application is approved.

(2) If you are an active workforce member and you are applying for coverage under abbreviated underwriting, you also must be actively at work at least 1 day during the calendar week immediately before the week which contains your coverage effective date for your coverage to become effective. You must inform the Carrier if you do not meet this requirement. In the event you do not meet this requirement, the Carrier will issue you a revised effective date, which will be the 1st day of the next month. You also must meet the actively at work requirement for any revised effective date for coverage to become effective, or you will be issued another revised effective date in the same manner.

[68 FR 5534, Feb. 4, 2003, as amended at 70 FR 30607, May 27, 2005]

§ 875.405 If I marry, may my new spouse apply for coverage?

(a)(1) If you are an active workforce member and you have married, your spouse is eligible to submit an application for coverage under this section within 60 days from the date of your marriage and will be subject to the underwriting requirements in force for the spouses of active workforce members during the most recent open season. You, however, are not eligible for abbreviated underwriting because of your marriage. You may apply for coverage along with your spouse, but full underwriting will be required for you.

(2) After 60 days, your spouse may still apply for coverage but will be subject to full underwriting. Your new qualified relatives (such as parents-in-law) may apply for coverage with full underwriting at any time following the marriage.

(b) The new spouse and other qualified relatives of an annuitant or retired member of the uniformed services may apply for coverage with full underwriting at any time following the marriage.

[68 FR 5534, Feb. 4, 2003, as amended at 72 FR 12037, Mar. 15, 2007]

§ 875.406 May I change my coverage?

(a) You may make the following changes to your coverage:

(1) You may apply to increase your coverage at any time. Full underwriting is required, except when an open season allows abbreviated underwriting.

(2) If you increase your coverage by adding to your daily benefit amount, the premiums for the additional coverage will be based on your age, prevailing premium rates, and coverage rules in effect at the time you purchase the additional coverage.

(3) For other types of coverage increases, your entire premium will be based on your age, prevailing premium rates, and coverage rules in effect at the time you purchase the increased coverage. Any increase in coverage will take effect on the 1st day of the month following the date the Carrier approves your request for an increase.

(b) You may decrease your coverage at any time, although any decrease

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will be subject to coverage rules at the time of the decrease. Decreased coverage takes effect on the 1st day of the month after the Carrier receives your request. You will not receive any refund of premiums paid for coverage you held before the decrease; however, your subsequent premiums will be reduced based on your new, lower level of coverage. The Carrier will refund or credit any portion of premium paid in advance for the period following the date on which you decrease your coverage.

(c) You may cancel your coverage at any time.

(1) If you cancel during the free look period, your premiums will be refunded to you.

(2) If you cancel your coverage at any time other than during the free look period, cancellation will take effect on your requested cancellation date or at the end of the period covered by your last premium payment, whichever occurs first. You will not receive any refund of premiums paid, other than any premiums paid in advance for the period following the effective date of your cancellation of coverage, and you will not have to pay any more premiums unless you owed retroactive premiums.

§ 875.407 Who makes insurability decisions?

The Carrier determines the insurability of all applicants. The Carrier's decision may not be appealed to OPM.

§ 875.408 What is the significance of incontestability?

(a) Incontestability means coverage issued based on an erroneous application may remain in effect. Such coverage will not remain in effect under any of the following conditions:

(1) If your coverage has been in force for less than 6 months, the Carrier may void your coverage upon a showing that information on your signed application that was material to your approval for coverage is different from what is shown in your medical records.

(2) If your coverage has been in force for at least 6 months but less than 2 years, the Carrier may void your coverage upon a showing that information on your signed application that was material to your approval for coverage

is different from what is shown in your medical records and pertains to the condition for which benefits are sought.

(3) After your coverage has been in effect for 2 years, the Carrier may void your coverage only upon a showing that you knowingly and intentionally made a false or misleading statement or omitted information in your signed application for coverage regarding your health status that was material to your approval for coverage.

(4) If your coverage is voided, as described in paragraph (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) of this section, no claims will be paid. In addition, the provisions of § 875.104 relating to the procedures for resolving a dispute involving benefits eligibility or claims denials do not apply to your situation. You may request a review by the Carrier if you believe that your coverage was voided in error. You must submit your request in writing to the Carrier within 30 days of the date of the rescission letter (letter voiding your coverage).

(b) Your coverage can be contested at any time when the Carrier finds that you were not an eligible individual at the time you applied and were approved for coverage.

(c) If the Carrier voids coverage after it has paid benefits, it cannot recover the benefits already paid.

(d) Incontestability does not apply when you have not paid your premiums on a timely basis.

[68 FR 5534, Feb. 4, 2003, as amended at 72 FR 12037, Mar. 15, 2007]

§ 875.409 Must I provide an authorization to release medical information?

You must provide the Carrier with an authorization to release medical information when requested. The Carrier may deny a claim for benefits or void your coverage if the Carrier does not receive an authorization to release medical information within 3 weeks after its request (4 weeks for those outside the United States).

§ 875.410 May I continue my coverage when I leave Federal or military service?

If you are an active workforce member, your coverage will automatically continue when you leave active service,